

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An accelerator composition for use with sprayed cementitious compositions, which comprises an aqueous solution or dispersion of a blend of:
about 30 to about 60% aluminium sulphate, calculated on the basis of ~~17%~~
~~aluminium sulphate~~ $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 \cdot 14.3\text{H}_2\text{O}$,
about 0.1 to about 15% of at least one of an alkanolamine, an alkylene diamine or
alkylene triamine,
about 0.2 to about 8% hydrofluoric acid,
~~and at least one of:~~
 - (a) up to about 15% of at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide,
lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium
carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate,
potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate; ~~[[or]]~~ and,
 - (b) greater than 0% up to about 15% of at least one of $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_{10}$ aliphatic
monocarboxylic acids, a metal salt of $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_{10}$ aliphatic monocarboxylic
acids, $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_{10}$ aliphatic dicarboxylic acids or a metal salt of $\text{C}_1 - \text{C}_{10}$
aliphatic dicarboxylic acids;
having an alkali metal equivalent greater than 1% Na_2O equivalent.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 1, in which at least one of sodium
hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium
carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium
sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate is present and
contains alkali metal in the range of from ~~about~~ greater than 1 to about 8.5% Na_2O
equivalent.

4. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 3, in which the alkali metal equivalent is from greater than 1 up to about 5% Na₂O equivalent.
5. (Previously presented) A method of applying a cementitious composition to a substrate by spraying, comprising the steps of mixing a batch of fluid cementitious composition and conveying it to a spray nozzle, there being injected at the nozzle the accelerator of claim 1.
6. (Previously presented) A hardened cementitious layer applied to a substrate by spraying through a spray nozzle, there having been added at the nozzle the accelerator of claim 1.
7. (Previously presented) The accelerator of claim 1 further comprising up to about 15% aluminium hydroxide.
8. (Previously presented) The accelerator of claim 1 further comprising up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
9. (Previously presented) The accelerator of claim 7 further comprising up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% aluminium hydroxide.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, in which at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate is present and contains alkali metal in the range of from ~~about~~ greater than 1 to about 8.5% Na₂O equivalent.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, in which the alkali metal equivalent is from greater than 1 up to about 5% Na₂O equivalent.
15. (Previously presented) The hardened cementitious layer of claim 6 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% aluminium hydroxide.
16. (Previously presented) The hardened cementitious layer of claim 6 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
17. (Previously presented) The hardened cementitious layer of claim 15 wherein the accelerator further comprises up to about 15% of at least one of phosphoric acid or phosphorous acid.
18. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 6, in which at least one of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide, lithium carbonate, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, magnesium carbonate, sodium sulphate, potassium sulphate, magnesium sulphate, or lithium sulphate is present and contains alkali metal in the range of from ~~about~~ greater than 1 to about 8.5% Na₂O equivalent.
19. (Currently Amended) The accelerator of claim 18, in which the alkali metal equivalent is from greater than 1 up to about 5% Na₂O equivalent.

20. (New) The accelerator of claim 1, wherein component (b) is at least one of formic acid, oxalic acid, glycolic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, succinic acid, citric acid, tartaric acid or their corresponding metal salts.
21. (New) The accelerator of claim 1, wherein component (b) is present from about 2 - 10% by weight.